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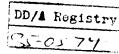
General Services Office of Federal Supply

Administration and Services

Washington, DC 20406



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Mr. Harry E. Fitzwater Deputy Director of Administration Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Fitzwater:

The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) have reached agreement that civilian and military agencies will share a common vehicle rental system beginning March 1. The arrangement promises considerably enhanced service to civilian agencies over the "751" vehicle rental schedules which previously were mandatory for civilian agencies.

Under the DOD program which will be used, an array of nationally recognized firms will provide flat, unlimited mileage daily rates to Federal employees upon presentation of official travel orders, Government identification cards, or rental company identification cards. The companies include Ajax, American International, Avis, Budget, General, Hertz, Holiday/Payless, National, and Thrifty. Most also offer discounted, unlimited mileage weekly rates and several offer discounted one-way rental rates. While the flat rates may be slightly higher than some of the current contract rates where the rental car is driven only a limited number of miles, rates will be lower when any significant mileage is accumulated. Payment is made by cash or credit card upon return of the vehicles. Separate procedures are being established with the participating rental companies so that Federal employees requiring vehicles in local duty areas can continue to make reservations and payments through the GSA Interagency Fleet Management System.

A question that our customers usually raise regards insurance coverage. The DOD agreements provide that each vendor bill an employee's agency directly for any charges related to accidents. As is the current practice, under both the DOD rate agreement and GSA contractual programs, employees who elect to take the collision damage waiver offered at additional expense by automobile rental companies should be aware that the charges are not reimbursable.

When an employee is charged directly for damage to a rental vehicle, the Federal Tort Claims Act provides for reimbursement of such charges when damage is incurred in the conduct of official business. This position has been upheld by a series of Comptroller General decisions.

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Sales taxes added to vehicle rental charges must be paid by the employee unless arrangements have been made to bill the agency or the GSA Interagency Fleet Management System. Such charges are reimbursable.

In locations where the participating companies cannot satisfy local rental requirements, the Interagency Fleet Management System will establish alternative sources for vehicle rentals. More detailed information concerning the program is contained in the Federal Travel Directory issued monthly by GSA and the Military Traffic Management Command, DOD, to be issued shortly. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Terry Angelo, Director, Travel and Transportation Services Division, on 557-1261; or Sean Allan, Director, National Fleet Management Division, on 557-1278.

Sincerely,

Assistant Administrato